

## **Written Testimony for Samantha Fazzino Rockville Regional Agriscience Program**

Good Evening,

My name is Samantha Fazzino and I am a senior enrolled in the Rockville Regional Agricultural Education Program at Rockville High School. I am here to testify regarding Bill 6824, an act concerning the state budget. I am requesting that the appropriations committee reallocate the proposed increases in the Governor's Budget for school choice programs more equitably to include 7.5 million of those increases for Agriscience programs.

In the last four years of being in the Agriscience program, I have taken courses in Animal Science and Leadership. I have maintained an equine ownership project as my Supervised Agricultural Experience Program. In addition to caring for my horse, I have also been hired as an animal caretaker for the Town of Vernon at our large animal facility.

This year I am serving on our chapter's executive committee as our chapter's vice president. I work with the other officers to plan events and activities for our chapter. I have really enjoyed building on my leadership and public speaking skills while serving as an officer.

Next year I plan to attend Bay Path University in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, majoring in occupational therapy. My ultimate goal is to open my own equine therapeutic riding facility to combine both my passion for occupational therapy and equine science. Without being enrolled in the Ag Science Program At Rockville, I would not have had the opportunity to explore the many career opportunities available to me and learned how to combine my interests into a successful career.

In closing, please provide more equity by reallocating these school choice increases and give 7.5 million dollars to our Agriscience programs. By supporting these programs other students like me will be able to learn how agriculture can improve our world.